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PATENT
Customer No. 58,982
New Attorney Docket No. 08350.1187-00000

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)	
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Lawrence W. CLARK et al.)	Group Art Unit: 2121
)	
Application No.: 10/628,155)	Examiner: HARTMAN JR., RONALD D.
)	
Filed: July 28, 2003)	
)	
For: A METHOD AND APPARATUS OF)	Confirmation No.: 4367
MANUFACTURING)	
)	

Attention: Mail Stop Appeal Brief-Patents
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

REPLY BRIEF

Pursuant to 37 CFR § 41.41(a)(1), Appellants present this Reply Brief in response to the Examiner's Answer mailed on December 18, 2006, the period for reply to which extends through February 20, 2007 (February 18, 2007 being a Sunday and February 19, 2007 being a Federal Holiday).

REMARKS

LaLonde discloses a manufacturing method for "assembling a number of products by generating and scheduling dynamically a number of assembly instructions from modeling information." LaLonde, Abstract. LaLonde further discloses allowing for "exact assembly instructions to be generated for the full theoretical scope of the product

line.” LaLonde, col. 1, ll. 41-43. LaLonde adds that “[t]he generated instructions do not require any human lookup or inference” and that the instructions “required to build the final product are derived from a ‘model’ of the product.” LaLonde col. 1, ll. 45-46 and ll. 48-49. That is, LaLonde discloses utilizing modeling information to generate and dynamically schedule assembly instructions for a number of parts. Nevertheless, nowhere does LaLonde disclose or suggest “establishing a desired fluid change associated with a manufacturing characteristic” and “enabling a change in a manufacturing instruction in response to the desired fluid change,” as recited in claim 1. That is, LaLonde discloses establishing instructions but not changing them. Therefore, LaLonde cannot anticipate claim 1.

The Examiner further suggests that Appellants do not present an argument that Sakamoto fails to teach “changing a manufacturing instruction associated with a second manufacturing workstation in response to not performing said changed manufacturing instruction,” as required by independent claim 18. See Answer at page 9. Apparently, the Examiner misreads Appellants’ Appeal Brief in which Appellants made the following arguments:

Sakamoto discloses that “an object of the present invention is to transmit the presence of defects which occur on an assembly line to a correction line efficiently and reliably” and adds that it is “difficult to correct defects at the positions in the line where they occur.” Sakamoto, col. 2, ll. 5-11 and 61-65. In other words, Sakamoto discloses transferring defects from one assembly line to another assembly line for correction. Sakamoto does not disclose or suggest “changing a manufacturing instruction associated with a second manufacturing workstation in response to not performing said changed manufacturing instruction,” as recited in independent claim 18. While claim 8 of Sakamoto provides “[a] system according to claim 1, wherein said

correction station line has a plurality of correction stations,” this recitation fails to disclose or suggest “changing a manufacturing instruction associated with a second manufacturing workstation,” recited in independent claim 18.

Appeal Brief at pages 16-17. The citations to Sakamoto the Examiner alleges disclose the recited “changing a manufacturing instruction associated with a second manufacturing workstation in response to not performing said changed manufacturing instruction” do not do so. Rather, these citations appear to expand on Sakamoto’s disclosure that “an object of the present invention is to transmit the presence of defects which occur on an assembly line to a correction line efficiently and reliably” and adds that it is “difficult to correct defects at the positions in the line where they occur.”

Sakamoto, col. 2, ll. 5-11 and 61-65. As noted in the Appeal Brief, Sakamoto disclosing the transfer of defects from one assembly line to another assembly line for correction does not disclose or suggest “changing a manufacturing instruction associated with a second manufacturing workstation in response to not performing said changed manufacturing instruction,” as recited in independent claim 18. Appellants note that the Examiner cannot point to a portion of Sakamoto that discloses that the instructions for the correction line are changed. Instead, it would seem that the “instructions” for the correction line are constant, to read from the carrier and address the problem/defect to be fixed. There is no “change” of instruction.

Conclusion

For the reasons given above, and those reasons provided in Appellants' Appeal Brief, Appellants respectfully submit that the rejections of claims 1-4 and 6-19 are in error and should be reversed.

To expedite prosecution, Appellants are open to discuss the foregoing with the Examiner at any time. Appellants thus invite the Examiner to call the undersigned at the Examiner's convenience to discuss the application.

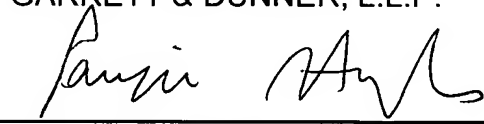
If there are any fees due under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17 which are not enclosed herewith, please charge such fees to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: February 20, 2007

By: _____



Panyin A. Hughes
Reg. No. 55,288